

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2014 @ 7:00 P.M.
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
MINUTES**

Members present: Mr. Richard Iannitelli, Chair, Mrs. Kellie-Ann Heenan, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Virginia Harnois, Secretary, Mr. Brenden Oates, Mr. Sean Clough. Matthew Strik, Student Representative to the School Committee. Also present were: Mr. Robert O'Brien, Superintendent, Mrs. Bridget, Morisseau, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Craig Levis, Special Education Director, Lisa Cournoyer, Director of Financial Operations, Ben Scungio, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney. Mr. Iannitelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

1. Mr. Iannitelli read the Emergency Evacuation and Health Notification.

2. Mr. Oates moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:

2.1 Minutes:

A) Minutes of the September 2, 2014 School Committee Meeting

2.2 Bills:

A) Regular Bills

B) Prepaid Checks from September 2, 2014 through September 12, 2014

2.3 Leaves:

A) Maternity leave for Heather Ferreira, Resource Teacher, Raymond C. LaPerche Elementary, from November 27, 2014 through March 6, 2015.

2.4 Resignations:

A) Matthew Gillis, Boys' Basketball Coach, Middle School, effective immediately.

B) Robert Jackson, Boys' Lacrosse Coach, High school, effective immediately.

2.5 Homeschooling:

<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Parent(s) or Guardian</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Bartlett, Noah	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Bartlett	GMS	6
Brennan, Josiah	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Brennan	SHS	12
Brennan, Anna	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Brennan	SHS	10
Brennan, Justus	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Brennan	SHS	9
Brennan, Liberty	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Brennan	GMS	8
Brennan, Elisabeth	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Brennan	GMS	7
Brennan, Theodore	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Brennan	LaPerche	3
Camara, Elias	Ms. Maggie Camara	OCRS	1
Levesque, Sara	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Levesque	SHS	11

Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

High school student representative Matthew Strik reported:

1. Gmail accounts have been implemented for students at the high school.
2. The 80/20 grading policy has been implemented with mixed reviews from students.
3. The freshman class is in the process of getting class officers.
4. Fall sports season is now underway.
5. Matt introduced his brother Ryan Strik who will be the interim high school student representative for the next couple of meetings.

4. There was a presentation on state-level student privacy. Mr. Mike Ferry, the Director for the office of Data, Analysis and Research for the RI Department of Education was present to discuss and answer questions on the privacy of student information that is collected by RIDE. Mr. Ferry discussed the security measures of data received by the RI Department of Education. He discussed the purpose and objectives for the intended use of data that is collected by the RIDE. Mr. Ferry also reviewed the security measures of the management and access of RIDE's data repositories of student data and of Certified Personnel Data. Mr. Ferry added that any of the data RIDE receives is aggregated and is later used to summarize statistical data, so no personally identifiable data leaves the RI Department of Education.
Public comment: RoseMarie Cipriano, Gail VanGorden, Melissa L'Etoile, Barbara Kowack-Murthy, and Rema Tomka.
5. There was a presentation on district-level student privacy. Mr. Barrette and Mr. Levis were present to discuss and answer questions on the privacy of student information on a district-level. Mr. Barrette gave a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the district's work in progress and the district's next steps regarding student privacy and confidentiality. The work in progress includes the district contacting RIDE to request they share and clarify state data privacy, confidentiality and the sharing of policies. The district has also been researching current Federal Laws and available guidance, and working on the review of privacy policies from current vendors, and conferring with the district's legal counsel. Mr. Barrette went over where the district is heading that included looking into policies to be implemented. Mr. Barrette shared websites for resource & guidance information that is available for Data Privacy. He reviewed steps the district should take in protecting privacy. Mr. Barrette said in order to be informative and transparent to parents; the district has been looking at best practices in other districts and would like to model information on student privacy from another district in another state. This user friendly model will be duplicated online on the district's website that explains in detail the services, data elements used to create accounts, privacy information, terms of service from vendors, and other information on student privacy. Mr. Barrette reviewed the timeline for the next steps to be completed in securing and protecting student privacy.
Public comment: Gail Van Gorden, Melissa L'Etoile
6. The school facility bond was discussed. The Committee reviewed the scope of work categories for the majority of the improvements covered under the bond, as well as how the funding from the bond would be allocated, and the housing aid reimbursement the town would receive. Mr. O'Brien said this information will be on our website and he will be talking to parent groups about the bond. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee an Elementary Reconfiguration Committee will be put together soon.
7. Mr. Oates moved that the necessity of school construction application be discussed and approved. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.
Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that on September 8, 2014, the Board of Education approved \$5,438,328 for high priority repairs. He said the school department would be eligible for 35% reimbursement and additional 4% for energy and life safety repairs. Mr. O'Brien said the roof at the administration building and plumbing upgrades do not qualify for reimbursement. Mr. O'Brien said with tonight's approval of this item, a memorandum of agreement signed by each school committee member will be submitted to RIDE.
8. Mr. Oates moved that a .45 one-year position of a special education teacher for Anna McCabe Elementary School be approved. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. This will be a 100% grant funded position. The position will be posted internally.
Public comment: Gail Van Gorden
9. The Committee discussed the use of the parking lot at William Winsor. Mr. O'Brien informed the Committee that the employees of Faial restaurant are parking at William Winsor as well as valet parking at William Winsor. He said there was a problem when the PTO had a meeting at night and they had no place to park. Mr. O'Brien said the only solution may be to put up no parking signs or parking for school business only that can be enforced, but he's waiting to hear from the police department to see if this can be enforced. The Committee discussed possible solutions to the problem. Mrs. Ratigan was present and spoke of concerns with patrons parking taking up the entire lot. She estimated that

approximately 50-70 cars are being parked in the Winsor lot and she feels the overcrowded parking lot poses a safety concern when functions at the school are in session and students are in the building. Mr. O'Brien said he did speak with Mr. Finlay and did speak with the Deputy Police but will need speak with the police department to see if law enforcement can be a solution.

Mr. Mencucci spoke about liabilities with a chain or any type of obstruction being put up. He said he believes with proper signage law enforcement may dissipate the problem.

Mr. Oates moved that the school committee authorize the Superintendent and the Director of Building and Grounds to work with the Town to explore methods of enforcing parking at William Winsor School. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Public comment: David Cournoyer, Barbara Kowack-Murthy

10. Mr. Oates moved to Discuss and Act upon Administrative Compensation. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The Committee reviewed a copy of the administrative compensation ranges. The Committee discussed a proposal to improve upon benefits and salaries for the entire team of administrator's. There was also a discussion about the performance audit recommendation of salary and benefit incentives to administrator's in order to remain competitive. At the request of several committee members, the school committee will be having a discussion in a future executive session to include performance based discussions as it relates to salary changes.

Mr. Oates and Mr. Clough rescinded their motion for approval.

Mr. Clough moved to table the agenda item to the October 6th school committee meeting. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Public comment: Gail Van Gorden

11. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

1. Mr. O'Brien said there was an electrical problem at R.C. LaPerche Elementary School. Last Friday, Angelo investigated a burning smell and discovered a very hot electrical panel. He said Angelo had National Grid shut down power and Leddy Electric made a temporary repair. Mr. Mencucci was present and explained that a main feeder burnt and power to school was turned off and a temporary splice was made to the panel. He said new conductors need to be brought into the building. He said a plan is in place for remediation and explained what would need to be done to make a permanent repair. The estimated time for the total conversion is April vacation. Mr. Mencucci said the building is safe, is code compliant and the Trust has been notified.
2. Mr. O'Brien thanked Lisa Petrone and Paul Barrette for their work on getting the School Committee audio recordings of the meetings up and running on the district's website.

13. PUBLIC FORUM: No one from the public addressed the Committee at this time.

14. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- Mr. Iannitelli said at the town council meeting tomorrow night, the town council is hearing the school construction issue again. He said the architect will be there to explain it.
- Mr. Iannitelli asked if there have been any major bus problems at this point. Mr. O'Brien said there have not been any major issues thus far.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Oates; seconded by Mrs. Harnois. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Petrone
Secretary